

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7010

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregations of the Holston Baptist Association upon their 125th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such dynamic and historic community of faith is the Holston Baptist Association, the members of which, celebrated the association's 125th Anniversary on October 19, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holston Baptist Association dates back to when many of the first permanent white settlers in Tennessee were Baptists who were fleeing from persecution in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, by 1781, these immigrants had established six churches, and "for their mutual advantage and edification," they organized a temporary association placed under the direction of the Sandy Creek Association in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the remoteness of their situation rendered this measure so inconvenient that on the fourth Sunday of October, 1786, representatives from seven churches met at the Cherokee Baptist Church and established their body as a distinct and independent association by the name of Holston; and

WHEREAS, the Holston Baptist Association was formally established in 1884, becoming the first Association of Baptist churches in Tennessee, the third west of the Appalachian mountains, and the twenty-third in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2009, the Holston Baptist Association celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the First Baptist Church in Church Hill as fifty-four churches came together to honor the past and transform their future; the gathering featured two sessions and many men of God, including Reverends Blake Montgomery, John Trewhella, Bruce Hullette, Gary Gerhardt, John Parrott, Jr., and Doctors Charles D. Earl and Randy Pressnell, who spoke truth and grace to their brothers and sisters in Christ; and

WHEREAS, congregants raised the banner of Christ in song with piano melodies from Katie King and Teresa Phillips and choral performances from the Lighthouse Quartet, Gary and Sonya Rice, and the combined choirs from Oak Grove Baptist Church, Ridgeview Baptist Church, Indian Ridge Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church, Church Hill; and

WHEREAS, today, the Holston Baptist Association serves its member churches and their communities through its various ministries, including the Christian Growth and Church Development Team, the Missions Team, and the Staff Leadership Ministry; and

WHEREAS, with congregational input, expectant prayer, and acts of faith throughout their history, the devout members of the Holston Baptist Association have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world and live by their avowed mission: in necessary things unity, in non-essential things liberty, and in all things charity; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, the Holston Baptist Association is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional and historic alliance should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holston Baptist Association, thank the good people of this historic association and their ministers and congregations for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.